

# music news

This term has flown past and, as usual, there have been some excellent musical performances.

ABRSM music exams are again being held at the school and these will be on the 28<sup>th</sup> June. The following people are taking part in these exams, Elizabeth France, David Whitworth, Mia Champion and John Collins. I wish them the very best of luck for their examinations.

Music technology continues to expand at school, with most classes having tried to manipulate sounds and to create new music by altering the frequencies of music. In the Prep School, music technology is very popular when trying to learn about different instruments and rhythm skills.

The Academy Girls' Choir performed beautifully at the centenary service for the Knights at St Augustine of Hippo Church on 21<sup>st</sup> May. This was the first performance for some of our newest members of the choir, Esmee Alex, Yasmin Amin and Rosie Laird, and I hope they enjoyed their first performance. This was followed by the enjoyable 'Swing, Cheese and Wine' evening on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May, with the renowned Swing band "The Jazz Pack". The remainder of the summer term will be taken up with preparing for the Awards Day Ceremony, the Summer Concert and, of course, the Music and Arts Festival, which, this year, will be adjudicated by the Soprano Singer, Kim Brown. Thank you to all the girls, for their commitment and hard work throughout the year. To the girls leaving us to move to new schools, I hope you continue to sing and enjoy music and, to all the others, have a restful holiday as you will be very busy next term!

**Mrs M Benzon, Music Teacher**

## CHORISTERS

This term saw an historic event with the inauguration of St. James' Church as Grimsby Minster. The Choristers, of course, played an important part in the Service and the usual high standard of the music was given an extra boost by the presence of a string orchestra which, together with the organ, accompanied a Haydn Mass. The many visitors commented very favourably on the music, but the Choristers' commitment to the music week by week ensures that it is always of a high standard and is what can be expected on any given day, whether it be on a 'special' Sunday or a poorly attended mid-week Evensong.

This year, the Choir Schools Association Sports Day was at The King's School, Peterborough. This, sadly, clashed with a weekend away for some of our School and we were unable to field a team for the sports. However, some of the senior choristers took part in Evensong in Peterborough Cathedral,

sung by some 100 boy and girl cathedral choristers from York, Manchester, Southwell and Liverpool. During the rehearsal, the Director of Music of York Minster pointed out some choristers and said to me 'They're good! Where are they from?' I answered proudly they were Grimsby choristers. It was another affirmation that our choristers are as good as any cathedral choristers in the country.

We have also visited St. Augustine's, Grimsby, and Marschapel to sing Evensong, and the Lincolnshire Show to represent the School's musical ability. The singing at the Lincolnshire Show drew large crowds and again caused many favourable comments. Trips out are not only a good means of spreading knowledge of our musical prowess, but they enable us to gain a better knowledge of each other. Who knew that Mrs Benzon is an expert motor mechanic?

Sam Lee, one of our Head Choristers, is joining the back rows as a Choral Scholar. His musical experience as a chorister, and his sight-reading ability, has meant that this transition from the Treble line to the Bass has been very easy. His commitment to the Choir and that of his family has been 100%. It is worth pointing out that, during his time as a chorister and in addition to his bursary, a boy will earn something in the region of £2,000 from fees for extra services. Roy Hillson and Liam Pudsey end their probationary period at the end of this term and we welcome them to full Choristership!!

**Mr A Pinel, Master of the Choristers'**

